

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD MONDAY, AUGUST 9, 2021, AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE WINK THEATRE LOCATED AT 115 W. CRAWFORD STREET**

**REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING**

The Chairman called the meeting to order.  
Pledge of allegiance to the Flag  
Roll call to determine quorum

**The following members were present:**

Jevin Jensen, Chairman  
Barry W. Robbins, Vice-Chair  
Robby Staten, Member (ABSENT)  
John Thomas, Member  
Greg Jones, Member

**Others Present:**

Robert Smalley, County Attorney  
Department Heads  
Citizens  
Press

**Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Thomas, and Robbins in agreement.**

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Thomas to approve the July 12, 2021 regular business meeting minutes as presented. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Thomas, and Robbins in agreement.

**Chairman Jensen recognized Ms. Rosa Lopez as Employee of the Month for June 2021. Ms. Lopez works at the Sheriff's Office.**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Chairman Jensen called for a Public Hearing to hear any comments or concerns the public may have regarding an alcohol license application for B Pro Express Café located at 1400 N. Thornton Ave.

There were no questions or comments regarding the application so Chairman Jensen declared the public hearing closed.

**Chairman's Report:** No report this month.

**Report from Commissioners:**

Commissioner Thomas, and Robbins did not have any updates to report for this month. Commissioner Jones asked for an update regarding Head Road, Public Works Director Dewayne Hunt noted that the study has been complete and work on the road is ready to bid out.

**June 2021 Financial Statement:** Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the June 2021 Financial Statement as presented by Finance Director James Garvin. Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) collections: June collections of \$1,112,723 were 16% greater than budgeted collections of \$958,333. This was 3% greater than May collections of \$1,082,210. YTD collections of \$6,318,392 were 15.75% greater than PY collections of \$5,459,025 for the same timeframe. TAVT collections: June collections of \$475,977 were 2.75% greater than May collections of \$463,244. YTD collections of \$2,724,205 were 27% greater than PY collections of \$2,146,143 for the same timeframe. YTD actual revenues of \$16,256,364 were greater than projected revenues of \$14,995,769 by \$1,260,596 or 8.5%. YTD actual expenditures of \$23,784,504 were less than projected expenditures of \$24,720,662 by \$936,158 or 3.75%. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Thomas, Jones and Robbins in agreement.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No public comments on agenda items.

**PRESENTATION:**

Regional Lead Coordinator Flor Mendoza from the North Georgia Health District gave a presentation on the harmful effects of lead poisoning. Mrs. Mendoza explained how children could be exposed to lead by ingesting lead paint chips or breathing in lead dust in a home built prior to 1978. Mrs. Mendoza noted that in even in lead free homes, children can be exposed if their parents work in industries such as construction or home remodeling occupations. Mrs. Mendoza informed the Board and attendees of helpful resources where they can find information on testing your home for lead or what the symptoms of lead poisoning are.

**Second Reading – Unified Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment:** Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the Unified Zoning Ordinance amendment. The amendment will add a new definition for “Small Animals”; by amending the definition of “Townhouse”; by amending the description of zoning districts GA, SA, and R-5 to add a statement wherein under certain conditions, a person may be permitted to store commercial tools, vehicles, and equipment at their residence; to repeal Section 4-6-10 and replace therewith a new Section 4-6-10; to repeal Section 4-6-17 and replace therewith a new Section 4-6-17; by amending Section 1-8.3 of the Whitfield County Zoning Procedures and Standards to not allow the withdrawal of an application for zoning amendment or conditional use once the Planning Commission opens and conducts the public hearing; and for other purposes. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Thomas and Robbins in agreement.

**Rezoning Recommendations:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the following rezoning requests recommended by the planning commission: **Robert B. Collier to rezone from General Agricultural (GA) to Rural Residential (R-5) a tract of land totaling 7.95 acres located at 1811 LaFayette Road, Rocky Face, Georgia, Parcel (27-277-03-000), DixiBrix, LLC to rezone from Rural Residential (R-5) and General Commercial (C-2) to Heavy Manufacturing (M-2) a tract of land totaling 22.55 acres located on 3444 Old Dixie Highway SE, Dalton, Georgia, Parcels (13-063-04-000, 13-082-01-000, 13-082-04-000, and 13-082-05-000) and to deny the rezoning request of Gloendy Santana Pineda to rezone from Low Density Single Family Residential (R-2) to Neighborhood Commercial (C-1) a tract of land totaling 3.05 acres located on Cleveland Highway, Dalton, Georgia, Parcel (11-193-02-039).** The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Thomas, Jones and Robbins in agreement.

**City of Varnell Annexation – parcel 11-191-02-024:** Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Jones for no land use classification objection to tax parcel 11-191-02-024. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Thomas, and Robbins in agreement.

**City of Dalton Annexation – parcel 12-179-02-050:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Jones for no land use classification objection to tax parcel 12-179-02-050. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Thomas, and Robbins in agreement.

**Probate Court – Advertising Budget Request:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve an increase of \$12,000 to Probate Courts advertising budget account. Judge Blevins noted the fee to publish legal notices increased due to a change in the legal notices form. Judge Blevins further noted the request of legal notices requesting to be published also increased. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Thomas and Robbins in agreement.

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**Sale and Conveyance of School Street to DWJDA:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Thomas to sell and convey 522 School Street to the Dalton-Whitfield Joint Development Authority. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Thomas, Robbins and Jones in agreement.

**American Rescue Plan Fund Donation for COVID-19 Relief to CLILA:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Thomas to approve a donation of \$25,000 to (CLILA) Coalition of Latino Leaders. The funding is contingent upon the City of Dalton approving to match the donation. The funding will provide education materials, PPE, options for treatment and prevention of COVID-19 in Whitfield County's Hispanic population. The motion was approved 2-0, with Commissioners Robbins and Thomas in agreement. Commissioner Jones abstained from voting.

**Sheriff's Office – Jail Communications/Security Systems:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve the bid from Odin Technology at \$212,350 for a digital intercom communications system at the jail. Captain Lynch noted the current intercom systems are still using analog and need upgrading to a digital system. Capt. Lynch requests using Federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds for this purchase due to mitigation of personnel being in contact with COVID-19 infected inmates. The health staff can monitor and communicate more often and regularly with a new intercom communications system. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Jones and Thomas in agreement.

**Sheriff's Office Vehicle Surplus:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Thomas to surplus two (2) vehicles from the Sheriff's Office and be placed on GovDeals.com. The vehicles are Ford Taurus's that were used as parts vehicles for other vehicles. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins and Thomas in agreement.

**Sheriff's Office – Equipment Upfitting for Ten (10) Vehicles:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Chairman Jones to approve the low bid from Dana Safety Supply for \$72,174.90 for equipping and upfitting the vehicles. This will be purchased with 2020 voter approved SPLOST funds. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Thomas and Jones in agreement.

**Alcohol Beverage License Application:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Thomas to approve the alcohol beverage application for B Pro Express Café located at 1400 N. Thornton Ave. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Thomas and Jones in agreement.

**Engineering Department – SPLOST Road Construction Project 5.8T Bid:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Thomas to approve the bid from C.W. Matthews, Inc. of Marietta, GA for \$1,796,450. This 2015 SPLOST project adds a fourth leg to the intersection of the South Bypass and Riverbend Rd., it will be a new connection serving Riverbend Park and residences in the area. The traffic signal, Bypass turn lanes, and the configuration of the turn lanes on the Riverbend Rd. leg will be modified. The motion was approved, 2-0, with Commissioners Thomas and Jones in agreement.

**Public Works – Vehicle & Equipment Surplus:** Motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Thomas to declare six (6) items for surplus from public works and to list them on GovDeals.com. The motion was approved, 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Thomas and Robbins in agreement.

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**Information Technology – Ratify Purchase of Back-Up Air Unit:** Motion was approved by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Thomas to ratify the purchase and install of a 5 Ton Chilled Water Up-Flow Fan Coil Unit from Jake Marshall Service, Inc. for \$19,027.00. This unit will serve as a back-up to the existing Liebert Unit that recently either had to have parts replaced or needed to be serviced multiple times. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Robbins, Thomas and Jones in agreement.

**Fire Department Surplus:** Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Jones to surplus a 1998 Bluebird 24 passenger Bus and to be placed on GovDeals.com. The motion was approved 3-0, with Commissioners Jones, Robbins and Thomas in agreement.

**Whitfield County Department Goals Update:**

1. Animal Shelter – Director Diane Franklin updated the Board on the progress of the animal shelters goals. Franklin noted the following: Jan-July 2021 reunited with owners 98/ Intake =765 13%, Positive Placements Transferred/Adopted = 612 / Intake 765 84%, Promote Spaying and Neutering, 51 animals spayed/neutered \$3,020.00.

2. Fire Department – Chief Edward O'Brien updated the Board on the progress of the Fire Departments goals. Improve Life Safety Measures – Status/progress:reviewing response times daily. Deployment model will be in the budget request. Inspection process is improving with better cooperation with Inspection office. Awaiting census numbers to review mandates. Long term a Fire Marshall will become a mandate from the State. Review Career Path – Satus/progress: Department files are updated and electronic. Department wide Training Matrix is updated and reviewed regularly. All positions (15) completed. Next phase is to work out the required training and review funding limitations. Next phase is Officer Development and it is still being evaluated. Internal Safety Review – Status/progress: ACCG reviewed and new Guideline will be used as "Best Practice." Starting with personal wellness and working on fireground operations. One more Battalion Chief needs Health and Safety Class.

3. Public Works – Director Dewayne Hunt updated the Board on the progress of the Public Works Departments goals. Reduce county's cost for driveway installs, In Progress / Pending BOC policy change, Cheaper pavement alternatives, Test Strip installed / Pending BOC input, Continue LMIG Credit Ongoing / On track to eliminate cash outlay.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Joy Joyce addressed the Board about getting speed bumps in her neighborhood. Chairman Jensen would like to receive signed petitions from the surrounding property owners in favor of the speed humps. Ms. Joyce noted she would begin to work on one.

**ADJOURN** Unanimous

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JEVIN JENSEN, CHAIRMAN  
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /